



26 September 2006

USFK 2006-2007 Winter Safety Campaign

1. Winter has moved to the close battle. It's coming soon and winters in Korea can be very harsh. We must begin serious work now to ensure we're ready to meet the winter weather challenges. Our ability to detect, assess and mitigate environmental change and its effect on our air, ground and off-duty operations will be vital. Fewer hours of daylight, low temperatures, periods of freezing precipitation, winter road hazards, and traffic congestion are all on our doorstep.

2. Our USFK Winter Safety Campaign will begin 1 October 2006 and run through 30 April 2007. My [Winter Safety Campaign Memorandum](#) provides more information about the campaign and tasks commanders to develop winter safety programs for their units.

3. 1st Quarter of every fiscal year has historically been our worst period for accidents and reportable safety-related matters. We have to change this. The success of this year's Winter Safety Campaign depends on us. We must prepare our personnel for winter hazards and strictly enforce safety standards. I expect leaders at every level down to first-line noncommissioned officers and first line-supervisors to be personally involved in, and be held accountable for, ensuring that their unit winter safety program is fully developed and implemented. Our "Under the Oak Tree Counseling" approach as laid out in my [Command Policy Letter #2](#) is the best way to impact on Servicemember behavior. Every member of the organization must be aware of and adhere to the program.

4. The Winter Safety Campaign focuses on the following areas:

Leader Accountability. Command involvement is a key factor in preventing cold weather related accidents during this winter season. Commanders' commitment and engaged leadership set the tone for success.

Weather Hazards. Winter weather in Korea can vary greatly and change quickly. It is imperative that commanders conduct mission analysis and risk assessments using the most accurate weather data available. Weather information is available through supporting weather elements, the USFK website at www.usfk.mil/usfk/weather/, and [USFK PAM 385-3](#).

Safety Training and Education. Winter safety training must be completed by 30 October and all new arrivals after that date must receive training on accident prevention measures for winter activities.

Government Motor Vehicle / Private Motor Vehicle Safety. Rapidly changing road conditions make travel extremely hazardous during winter months in the Republic of Korea and it is imperative that travelers are able to obtain up-to-date information on these changing situations. Current road conditions, travel advisories, cancellation of social and business functions, and school closings/delays are announced on AFN (Radio and TV) and are available on the USFK website at <http://www.usfk.mil/usfk/pmo/roadconditions/index.asp>. Road condition information may also be obtained by calling 738-ROAD.

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Carbon Monoxide Poisoning. One of the tragedies of winter weather is the risks associated with carbon monoxide poisoning. This silent killer is served up when Servicemembers leave their stationary vehicle running to keep warm. This is a recipe for death. Supervisors cannot let Servicemembers run stationary vehicles simply to keep warm. This killer will seep into openings in the vehicle compartment and silently kill the occupant. Do not allow Servicemembers to run a vehicle to keep warm. The same killer will invade field sleeping tents unless approved heating devices are used, maintained properly, and fire / carbon monoxide guards are on duty. Supervisors must ensure all tents are properly heated, vented, and supervised.

Winter Recreation Activities. Personnel should be encouraged to take advantage of the excellent activities and events offered by morale, welfare, and recreation. Regardless of which activity is chosen (skiing, sledding, camping, snowboarding, etc.) remind personnel to prepare themselves for outdoor activities during the winter season. It is essential to mitigate the risks associated with cold weather and take appropriate precautions.

Home Safety. Servicemembers' safety begins in the homes. Family members are also at risk for injuries. We need to reinforce safe behavior of family members. Supervisors should talk to their Servicemembers about rehearsing home emergency plans and performing function tests on smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

5. We must do everything we can to prevent injury and loss of life during the upcoming winter season. Early preparation and first line supervisor commitment are critical to ensuring that every person is ready for what's ahead. As leaders, we are responsible for ensuring the safety of our precious men and women as we train and prepare to execute our "fight tonight" mission.

6. We Go Together!



B. B. BELL
General, US Army
Commander

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